Setting Up a Divisional Office at Salem

1800. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a longstanding demand for the last 30 years from the people of Salem, Tamil Nadu, to establish a divisional office' at Salem;

(b) whether it is a fact that the divisional office at Palghat is not serving immediate purpose of the people of Salem and other regions; and

(c) what steps the Ministry would take to establish a divisional office at Salem for smooth functioning of railway administration in that region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received setting up a divisional office at Salem.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) New divisions are set up keeping in view the factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/ administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency. The proposal for creation of a new railway division at Salem, when seen in the light of these considerations, is not found operationally feasible.

Railway Network in Gujarat

1801. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring many backward areas in Gujarat on the rail network, especially in Kutch; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Where a number of Railway Projects span across more than one State/Region, State/Regional boundaries per se are not a criterion for Railway plan

formulation and execution. However, the following projects are likely to serve Gujarat including its relatively backward areas and areas in Kutch.

New Lines

(1) Kapadvanj—Modasa

(2) Godhra—Indore—Devas—Maksi.

Gauge Conversion

(3) Bhildi—Viramgam

(4) Gandhidham—Palanpur

(5) Dharangdhara—Kuda

(6) Surendranagar-Bhavnagar with extension to Pipavav

(7) Gandhidham—Bhuj

(8) Wankaner-Maliya Miyana

(9) Rajkot-Veraval. *

Railway Electrification

(10) Udhna-Jalgaon

Conversion of Trichy Madurai Section

1802. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an urgent need to convert Trichy-Madurai-Tirunelveli-Nagarcoii metre gauge section into broad gauge section;

(b) what is holding the Ministry back to convert this section into broad gauge;

(c) whether it is a fact that this section is generating a large amount of revenue for the Railways;

(d) whether his Ministry has any immediate proposal to connect Nagarcoil with Tirupati, for convenience of the tourists who come to Nagarcoil to visit Tirupati; and

(e) by when the Ministry would expedite this project?